

(As of 23 March 2012)

Viet Nam's Progress on Nuclear Security

Ensuring nuclear safety and security is the primary responsibility of each State while close cooperation among countries plays an important role. The Nuclear Security Summit is an important high-level forum, gathering and strengthening the participating countries' political will and goodwill for cooperation in a joint effort for nuclear safety and nuclear security on a voluntary basis and in accordance with each country's capabilities and conditions. With this understanding, Viet Nam has actively taken measures in the following areas:

1. Strengthening the legal and regulatory framework for nuclear safety and security: The Atomic Energy Law was adopted in Viet Nam in 2008. The Government of Viet Nam is now strengthening its legal and regulatory framework for nuclear safety, security and safeguards with a view to making them conform to the new IAEA Nuclear Security Series.

2. Strengthening national nuclear security capability: In 2011, the Government of Viet Nam approved the "Project on Ensuring Nuclear Security in the Atomic Energy Sector up to 2020". In addition, Viet Nam has, in cooperation with the IAEA, developed the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan.

3. Enhancing the control of radioactive sources: Viet Nam has established a national registry of all radioactive sources and administrative details of all licensees of radioactive materials. It supports and implements in good faith the IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Supplementary Guidance on Export and Import of Radioactive Sources. Within the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative program, with the support from the United States, Viet Nam has been upgrading physical protection systems for 21 radiation facilities with category 1 sources.

4. Combating illicit trafficking of nuclear materials: Viet Nam shares information on the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials by participating in the IAEA ITDB. By participating in the Megaport Initiative, Viet Nam also contributes to international efforts in combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. In addition, Viet Nam is participating in the Joint IAEA-EU Project. It is planned that RPMs will soon be installed at Noi Bai International Airport.

5. Speeding up the conversion from HEU to LEU research reactors: Under the Russian Research Reactor HEU Fuel Return Program, Viet Nam successfully implemented the core conversion from HEU to LEU fuel at Da Lat Research Reactor in 2011. On 16 March 2012, Viet Nam and Russia signed the Agreement on the Return of HEU Spent Fuel to Russia, establishing the legal framework for repatriation of Da Lat Reactor spent fuel, which is expected to complete in 2013.

6. Active participation at international efforts for nuclear security: Viet Nam is a partner country of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and has participated in a number of activities under this Initiative, including the Plenary Meeting in 2011 in the Republic of Korea and workshops on core capability in nuclear forensics and countering nuclear terrorism.

Viet Nam has organized several workshops on physical protection for managers and staff of a large number of radiation facilities. Especially, in December 2012 Viet Nam, in cooperation with Republic of Korea, organized a Forum toward Nuclear Security Summit Seoul 2012 to promote the Summit. Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea and the IAEA are considering launching a pilot project on the establishment of a Radioactive Source Location Tracking System (RADLOT) in Viet Nam with a view to contributing to the promotion of the global nuclear security, especially on transport security.

7. Supporting the work of the IAEA: Viet Nam has actively participated in the International Atomic Energy Agency technical meetings on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and in the process of developing some documents in the IAEA Nuclear Security Series.

8. Proactive implementation of international treaties and UNSC resolutions: Viet Nam is committed to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and has fulfilled its national reporting obligations. It is currently in the final stage of finalizing procedures to adhere to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.